



DANIEL SQUADRON
SENATOR, 25TH DISTRICT

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November 15, 2011

Robert K. Steel
Deputy Mayor for Economic Development
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Deputy Mayor Steel:

I am writing to support the application submitted by New York University (NYU) and the Polytechnic Institute of New York University (Poly) in response to the 'Applied Sciences in New York City' request for proposals (RFP).

NYU proposes to create a "Center for Urban Science and Progress" (CUSP) that would pursue new research agendas for science and technology, seek to tackle the challenges of a rapidly urbanizing world and create new industries. As such, the proposal appears to have the potential to meet the challenge issued by Mayor Bloomberg to create a world class applied science institute--or institutes--in New York City.

The location proposed by NYU, 370 Jay Street, would be an excellent property at which to pursue an applied sciences center: it is a 459,000 square foot building in the heart of Downtown Brooklyn that has, for years, been largely vacant. In addition to being a keystone property in Downtown Brooklyn, 370 Jay Street is a stone's throw from the existing campuses of both Poly and the New York City College of Technology; awarding NYU's application would create value for the new center of science and technology, and for the existing ones. Further, if NYU's application were successful, 370 Jay Street would likely require minimal capital investment from the City. As such, selecting it would not preclude the selection of another, more expensive, Applied Sciences proposal as well.

Every bit as importantly, pursuing 370 Jay Street would be a major step forward in the resurgence of Downtown Brooklyn, an area that has garnered hundreds of millions of dollars in capital improvements, but in which a full renaissance is stymied by 370 Jay's current abandonment and disrepair. For years, my colleagues and I, the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, and others have been calling for 370 Jay Street to be put to productive use. If the MTA and NYCEDC are able to reach an agreement to allow NYU to use 370 Jay Street, the need to conduct a time-consuming negotiation between the agencies, pursue an expensive bid process, and suffer continued costly delays can be avoided. NYU's application presents a long-awaited opportunity.



I urge you to accept NYU's proposal to locate an Applied Sciences Center at 370 Jay Street. Please contact my office if I can be helpful in this matter at 212-298-5565 or by emailing squadron@nysenate.gov.

Sincerely,



Daniel Squadron
State Senator
25th District

CC:

Thomas Prendergast
President, MTA New York City Transit

Seth Pinsky
President, New York City Economic Development Corporation

Jeffrey Rosen
Director of Real Estate, Metropolitan Transportation Authority